

Top Secret

184

(Security Classification)

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday May 19, 1976 CI NIDC 76-118C

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

Top Secret

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday May 19, 1976.

[redacted] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

LEBANON

[redacted] Heavy fighting continued in Beirut yesterday; leftist and Christian militiamen struggled for territory in the port area and commercial district. Both sides continue to shell residential areas and to impede the delivery of food and fuel.

[redacted] In the mountains east of the capital, leftist forces gained positions from which they can shell the Christian resort area of Farayya. The leftist advance on Farayya, which is well within the Christian core area, apparently triggered the renewal yesterday of a major artillery duel between Christian forces in Bayt Miri and leftists in Kamal Jumblatt's stronghold at Alayh.

[redacted] The rift between Damascus and Palestinian leaders over Syria's recent attacks on Lebanese and Palestinian leftists has stalled attempts to work out a new cease-fire agreement. The Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian truce committee apparently has not met since early last week.

[redacted] Libyan Prime Minister Jallud's efforts to mediate the dispute are not likely to amount to much. Jallud's lavish praise of Syria's role in Lebanon, on the one hand, and his promises of unlimited aid to the Lebanese left, on the other, underscore Tripoli's poor understanding of the dispute.

[redacted] The Syrians seem to have little interest at the moment in resolving their differences with the Palestinians or in engineering a new truce. Their reluctance may be the result of their alleged agreement with the Christians to delay the transfer of power from President Franjiyah to Ilyas Sarkis until Syrian forces in Lebanon are able to eliminate the threat to order from Lebanese and Palestinian radicals.

[redacted] Additional Syrian troops reportedly moved into Lebanon yesterday. [redacted] in Damascus saw 20 Syrian army trucks fully loaded with armed troops--whom he presumed to be Syrian--heading west on the Damascus-Beirut highway. The number of trucks he saw could accommodate about 400 troops.

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DIA



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SYRIA-EGYPT

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[redacted] The Saudi-Kuwaiti effort to mediate the dispute between Syria and Egypt at a quadripartite prime ministers' meeting in Riyadh today appears to be off to an inauspicious start.

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[redacted] Although Egypt and Syria ceased their propaganda against each other several days ago, both appear reluctant to go any further to reconcile their differences. Both are approaching the meeting with fundamentally different objectives.

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[redacted] The Syrians want to raise the second Sinai agreement as the principal topic of discussion. They want at least an appearance of change in Egypt's position on the accord as a condition for reconciliation.

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[redacted] the Syrians may demand that Egypt deny access to the Suez Canal to Israeli cargoes, that Cairo issue a statement affirming that the Sinai accord does not constitute non-belligerency, or that it issue a statement noting that the accord is limited because it is predicated on further moves toward a peace settlement.

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[redacted] Under normal circumstances, the Egyptians would have little difficulty agreeing to the last two conditions; each is frequently acknowledged as part of Egypt's existing policy.

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25X1 [] The Egyptians would probably be satisfied for the moment with a reconciliation with Syria that included only an indefinite extension of the propaganda truce. Ultimately Cairo wants a basic change in Syria's attitude toward Egypt--which will require at least tacit assent to Egypt's adherence to the Sinai accord. It does not expect this to occur anytime soon.

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25X1 [] The meeting will be made still more difficult by the late addition of foreign ministers from the four countries as participants. Foreign ministers Fahmi of Egypt and Khaddam of Syria are long-standing antagonists whose presence is likely to raise the level of acrimony.

RHODESIA

25X1 [] Small groups of guerrillas numbering 5 to 25 are penetrating farther into Rhodesia from the Mozambique border, despite more aggressive counterinsurgency operations by Rhodesian security forces in recent weeks.

25X1 [] Last weekend rebels blew up gas pumps at Inyazura, some 80 kilometers (48 miles) from the Mozambique border along the main rail and road link between Salisbury and Umtali. This is the first sign of guerrilla activity in the area. The government suspended night passenger train service between the capital and Umtali as a precautionary measure.

[]

25X1 [] Since the recent highly publicized attacks on Rhodesia's rail lines with South Africa and Botswana, the government has shown a greater concern for security in the southeast, where it had had few troops or police stationed. []

25X1 [] The heaviest action has been in the northeastern border area, long the center of guerrilla operations.

25X1 [] Rhodesian press accounts indicate that casualties have increased, but there are still few pitched battles between the two sides. Many casualties have been civilians who triggered land mines planted by the guerrillas and curfew violators shot by security forces.

25X1 [] The government has announced that its current offensive could last considerably longer than previous operations, and that mobilization measures announced at the beginning of the month may continue in effect for some time.

25X1 [] According to press reports, the call up of white reservists is already hitting some small businesses hard. Some companies have had half their work force mobilized. At present, most major companies believe they can improvise and operate without a decline in production. []

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PORTUGAL

25X1 [] The Portuguese Communist Party yesterday nominated its number two official, Octavio Pato, as a candidate for president in Portugal's election on June 27. Neither Pato nor two obscure candidates chosen last week by the far left have any chance of winning, but along with possible right-wing entries, they could attract enough votes to force a runoff between the two leading contenders, Army Chief of Staff Eanes and Prime Minister Azevedo.

25X1 [] Eanes' announcement on Friday that, if elected, he will choose Socialist leader Mario Soares as his prime minister will consolidate his support among members of the Socialist Party, which polled a plurality in the legislative election last month.

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[] Prime Minister Azevedo does not have the support of any formal party organization, but he is a popular figure in Portugal, and his forceful style will make him an attractive candidate. He reportedly intends to focus heavily on his record as prime minister, but he will be hampered by his difficulty in attracting high-level endorsements and by his failure so far to put together an effective organization. An appeal to members of the cabinet last week to support his presidential candidacy apparently fell on deaf ears.

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[] The absence of a declared Communist candidate appeared to assure Azevedo of a large number of Communist votes in his bid to stop the more conservative General Eanes. Azevedo, however, apparently intended to run a strong anti-Communist campaign, and this probably helped party chief Cunhal decide to put forward Pato.

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[] Azevedo's failure to sound out the political parties and the military before announcing his candidacy was a serious tactical error, and some US embassy sources attribute his problems to the absence of good political advisers. The death of Azevedo's chief adviser earlier this year is said to have cost him the support of the Socialist Party.

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[] In contrast, a blue-ribbon election committee is supporting Eanes. It contains leaders of the three major democratic parties, as well as some of Portugal's most prominent newspaper editors and columnists. []

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TURKEY-GREECE

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[] //Ankara is planning to hold air and naval exercises in the Aegean Sea between June 2 and 5 that will come within about 11 to 13 kilometers (six to seven nautical miles) of four Greek islands.//

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[] the Greeks believe the chances of a confrontation are low, but they are still concerned about the exercises. The Turks have said on several previous occasions that they would hold exercises within the Greek-claimed 10-mile airspace limit, but no penetrations were reported.//

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DIA

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[redacted] / [redacted] reports that he has been instructed to take no action against intruding Turkish aircraft but to document carefully any incursions so that the foreign ministry can protest through diplomatic channels.

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USSR

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[redacted] Food shortages in the USSR are leading to reports in the Western press of civil disturbances.

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[redacted] The French newspaper *Le Figaro* carried a report on the subject yesterday. It said Westerners returning from the southern part of the European USSR report that in Rostov and Kiev stalls were smashed in the collective farm markets and windows of several state food shops were broken by Soviet citizens dissatisfied with the small amount of produce on sale.

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[redacted] Another traveler reported a slowdown by stevedores unloading ships in the Baltic port of Riga. This story supports an earlier report, noted in the *Daily* on May 15, that a Soviet official had admitted to a Western businessman that a work slowdown was under way in Riga.

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IRAN

25X1 [] Government security forces struck hard at anti-government terrorists in two Iranian cities last weekend.

25X1 [] //In Tehran, 11 members of a Marxist group were killed on Sunday during a police raid on two guerrilla safe-houses. Four policemen were also killed in the incident and another died later of wounds.//

25X1 [] In the regional capital of Mashed, security forces cornered two men belonging to the xenophobic Islamic organization responsible for several assassinations last year, killing one and capturing the other. The two were believed responsible for a recent bombing incident.

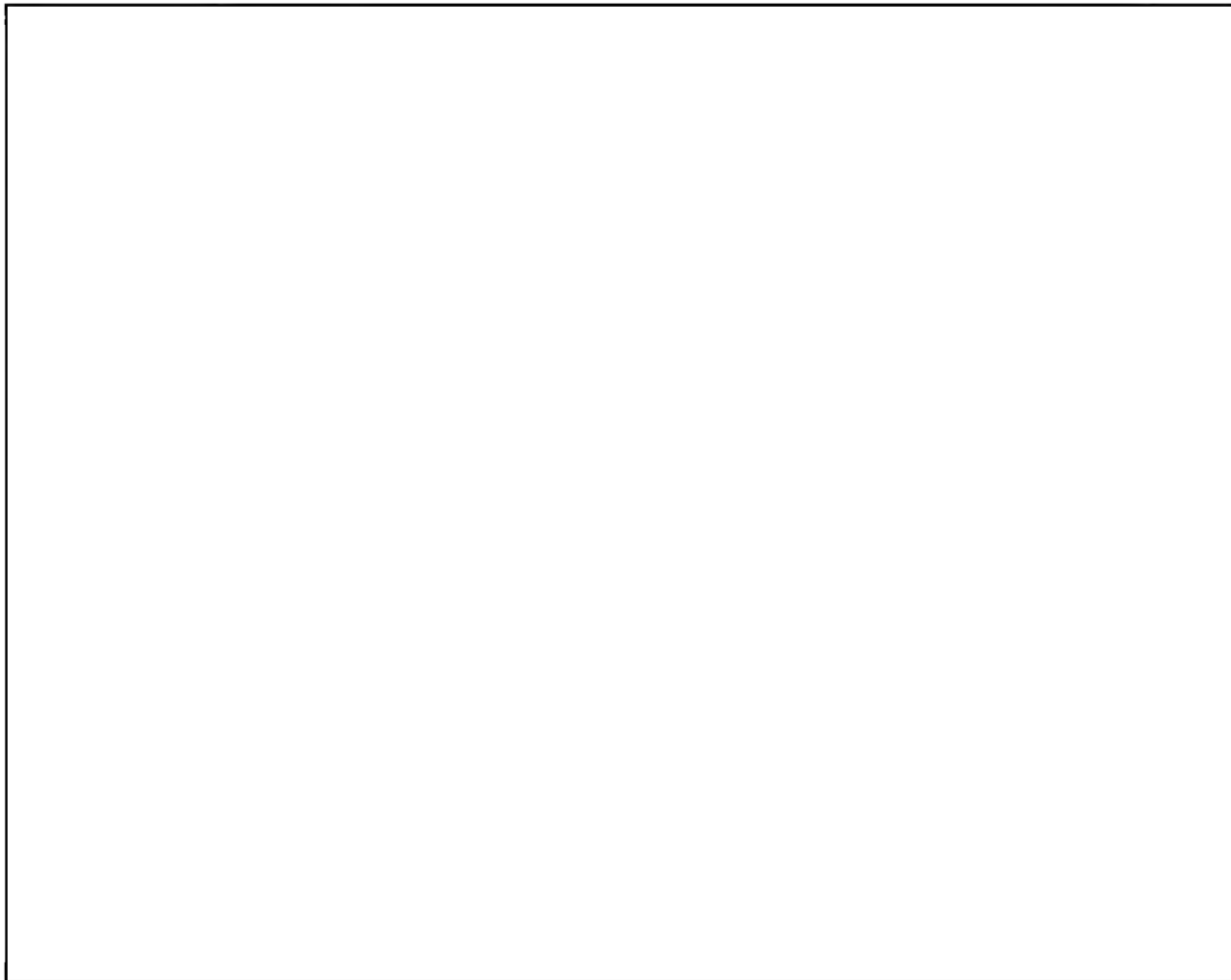
25X1 [] More than 50 dissidents have been killed since January, either by execution or in shootouts with authorities.

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25X1 [] //The string of government successes over the last year has damaged but not destroyed the dissident organizations. More incidents, particularly bombings, are likely.//

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CHILE

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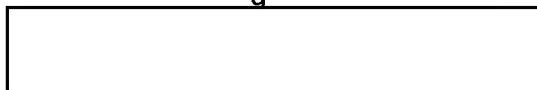
[redacted] //Chilean security forces are preparing for trouble during the OAS General Assembly scheduled to convene in Santiago on June 4.//

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[redacted] There have been no major terrorist incidents since tough state-of-siege measures were imposed following the coup in September 1973/

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[redacted]



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] //Security forces have been placed on alert and police patrols are being reinforced throughout the country. Guards are being posted around embassies in Santiago to prevent any rush for political asylum by agitators trying to give substance to their charges of repression. Prominent prisoners are being closely guarded to prevent leftists from assassinating them and blaming the junta.//

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[REDACTED] The actions by the government may play into the hands of its critics. It has already arrested a lawyer who has worked with the Catholic Church on human rights cases and who has met with visiting US congressmen. This latter fact will almost certainly be played up in the foreign press as the motivation for the arrest.

[REDACTED]

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